



Office of Congressman  
Rubén Hinojosa (TX-15)

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**Inside this issue:**

Award to Valley Wildlife Refuge	1
DUNS Number	2
Grants.gov Launch	2
DUNS Number	2
DOJ Grants	3
Federal Funding Opportunities	3

# GRANTS ALERT

Volume III, Issue I

December 2003

## Welcome Message From Congressman Rubén Hinojosa



Greetings, and welcome to the December Issue of my Grants Alert. I hope this Alert will keep you better informed of funding opportunities as

they arise. Please be assured that I will continue to let you know of federal, state and local funding sources. This alert will continue to be posted monthly on my website at [www.house.gov/hinojosa/grants](http://www.house.gov/hinojosa/grants).

In this issue, there are funding opportunities from various federal agencies, as well as success stories of recent awards to organizations in the Congressional district. I hope that you will use opportunities such as these to improve our region's ability to access the federal funds that we need

and deserve.

Please be sure to keep my office informed on any federal grant applications you may have submitted. I would be more than happy to prepare a letter of support on behalf of your project.

To request more information, please contact Karina Cardoza in my McAllen District Office at (956) 682-5545 or William Moreno in my Beeville District Office at (361) 358-8400.

## \$ 1 Million Awarded to Valley Wildlife Refuge

On October 29, 2003, \$1 million in federal appropriations was awarded for expansion of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. I requested the funding for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2004 Interior Appropriations bill, which passed in the House by a vote of 216 to 205.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge is a source of great pride for the 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. It contributes to

both the beauty and economy of the region and, most importantly, it is an ecological haven like no other in the country. It is as unique as the Valley itself, as it is the most diverse national refuge in the nation. I am very pleased to have been able to assist in securing the funds for future expansion.

I would like to thank Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison for her help in making this local treasure a national priority. The funding will be used for

land acquisition from willing sellers in order to expand the refuge. It currently contains a unique ecosystem serving as home to more than 500 species of birds; 200 species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish; 300 species of butterflies; and 1,200 species of plants. More species of animals and plants live in the Valley than in any other similar-sized region in the United States.

See *Refuge*, Page 2



**My office can help you access federal funds for your organization's projects and priorities!**

## *New Federal Requirement for All Grantseekers*

Due to a need for improved statistical reporting of Federal grants and cooperative agreements, The U. S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has made it a requirement for all grant applicants to provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number when applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements on or after October 1, 2003. The identifier

will be used for tracking purposes, and to validate address and point of contact information. The DUNS number will supplement other identifiers required by statute or regulation, such as tax identification numbers. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grants life cycle.

Organizations should verify that they have a DUNS number or take the

steps needed to obtain one as soon as possible if there is a possibility that they will be applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements on or after October 1, 2003.

Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or by visiting [www.dnb.com](http://www.dnb.com).

NEW! The Grants.gov

"Apply for

Grants" feature was launched on October 31, 2003.

Finally – a single online source for grant information and the ability to apply for Federal grants! For more information, visit [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

## *Grants.gov Launch*

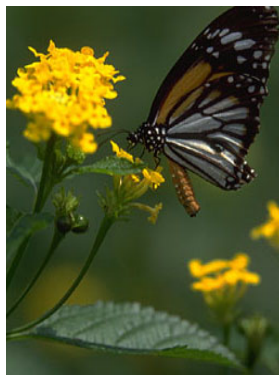
A new website has recently been launched that will assist all grant seekers in accessing funding opportunities from the federal government.

Grants.gov is a cross-agency initiative lead by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that will provide a single access point for searching and ap-

plying for federal funds. This "one-stop grants shop" is part of the E-government initiative to improve access to government services via the Internet.

I highly encourage you to visit the Grants.gov website at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) to familiarize yourself with the process. Please feel free to also visit my website at

[www.house.gov/hinojosa/](http://www.house.gov/hinojosa/) grants for additional resources. Please contact my office to keep me informed of any and all proposals submitted by your organization, so that I can monitor the proposal through the entire review process. As always, I'd be more than happy to write a letter of support on your behalf. Good luck!



**Visit the Lower Rio Grande Valley Wildlife Refuge in Alamo, Texas**

## *Refuge, cont'd from page 1*

[Background on the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge](#)

Congress established the Lower Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge in 1979. Since that time, the Fish and Wildlife Service has been purchasing appropriate land from willing sellers to expand the refuge. The refuge is an economic engine in the Valley. The four counties of

the Lower Valley have clearly recognized the potential for ecotourism--primarily birding--and have invested heavily in its future.

In 1991, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department issued a "sustainable ecotourism strategy" and determined that nature tourists stay longer in the Rio Grande Valley and spend more money per day than

do other visitors to the region. The Refuge has helped four of the poorest counties in the nation (all in the lowest 3% of per capita income) to benefit from this new eco-tourism industry. Continued expansion of the Refuge is critical to this economic development activity.

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

### *Mission, Weslaco Police Departments Awarded Grant from Department of Justice*

The U. S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services announced funding awarded under the Homeland Security Overtime Program (HSOP). The Mission Police Department was awarded \$70,588 and the Weslaco Police Department was awarded \$50,000 in funding under this program.

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) developed the

Homeland Security Overtime Program to increase the amount of overtime funding available to support community policing and homeland security efforts. COPS HSOP will support programs that increase community safety and security and reduce public fear. HSOP grants will supplement the selected agencies' state or locally-funded officer overtime budgets, increasing the amount of overtime funding

available for these critical functions.

In securing this funding, I worked with Mission Mayor Norberto Salinas and Mission Police Chief Leo Longoria, as well as Weslaco Mayor Joe Sanchez and Weslaco Police Chief J. D. Martinez. I highly encourage all cities and police departments to seek funding such as this to help implement your city's efforts to serve and protect.



**City of Weslaco Police Department**

## *Federal Funding Opportunities*

### Education

#### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

*Environmental Education Grants Program (CFDA 66.951)*

This grants program provides financial support for projects which design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques.

**Eligible Applicants:** Any local education agency, state education or environmental agency, college or university, not-for-profit organization.

**Application Due Date: January 6, 2004**

### Environment

#### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

*Clean Air Act 103 STAG Funds and EPM Funds to Support U.S./Mexico Border Activities*

Clean Air Act (CAA) 103 funds to support air quality management along the US/Mexico border. This funding opportunity will make available approximately \$2,300,000 in 2003/2004 State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) funds and approximately \$400,000 in 2004 Environmental Program Management (EPM) funds. EPA anticipates that between five and fifteen awards will be made in the range of \$25,000 to \$600,000 each. The awarding instrument will be through a cooperative agreement.

**Application Due Date: January 16, 2004**

#### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

*Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Internship*

EPA solicits cooperative agreement proposals from educational institutions and non-profit organizations that are interested in obtaining EPA financial assistance to provide educational and training opportunities, in the form of internships for students in the hazardous waste management field. This cooperative agreement would enable students to (1) gain knowledge of alternative or innovative treatment technologies and real work experience in the hazardous waste management field, and (2) earn academic credit.

**Eligible Applicants:** State governments, County governments, City or township governments, State controlled institutions of higher education, Private institutions of higher education, Individuals

**Application Due Date: February 04, 2004**



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**GRANTS ALERT**

## Federal Funding Opportunities (continued from page 3)

### Health

#### **U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

##### **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**

##### *Grants for Policy-Oriented Rural Health Services Research*

HRSA announces competition for policy-oriented rural health services research grants. Individual research projects that address rural health services will be funded under this announcement. Policy-oriented rural health services research is useful because it informs policy-makers concerned with rural health issues and it enhances knowledge about rural health and rural health services. These grants are designed to provide support both for entities established in the rural health services research field as well as those entering this field. These grants are also intended to advance specific areas of rural health services research in which a limited amount of research exists.

**Application Due Date: May 03, 2004**

#### **Proposal Writing Tip:**

At some point, perhaps after the first or second draft is completed, seek out a neutral third party to review the proposal working draft for continuity, clarity and reasoning. Ask for constructive criticism at this point, rather than wait for the Federal grantor agency to volunteer this information during the review cycle. A neutral reviewer will be helpful to circumvent simple mistakes that are often easily overlooked.



### Housing

#### **U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

##### *Revitalization of Severely Distressed Public Housing; HOPE VI Revitalization and Demolition Grants*

The purpose of HOPE VI Revitalization grants is to assist public housing agencies (PHAs) to: (1) Improve the living environment for public housing residents of severely distressed public housing projects through the demolition, rehabilitation, reconfiguration, or replacement of obsolete public housing projects (or portions thereof); (2) Revitalize sites (including remaining public housing dwelling units) on which such public housing projects are located and contribute to the improvement of the surrounding neighborhood; (3) Provide housing that will avoid or decrease the concentration of very low-income families; and (4) Build sustainable communities.

**Eligible Applicants:** Public Housing Authorities that have severely distressed housing in their inventory and are otherwise in conformance with the threshold requirements provided in Section III of this NOFA.

**Application Due Date:** Revitalization grant applications are due on **January 20, 2004**. Demolition grant applications are due on **February 18, 2004**.

*For more information on these and other funding opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact Karina Cardoza, Grants Coordinator, at 956-682-5545.*

### Useful Federal Agency Web Sites

Congressman Hinojosa's Web Site

U. S. Department of Agriculture

U. S. Department of Commerce

U. S. Department of Defense

U. S. Department of Education

U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

U. S. Department of Homeland Security

U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

U. S. Department of Transportation

Small Business Administration

[www.house.gov/hinojosa](http://www.house.gov/hinojosa)

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

[www.doc.gov](http://www.doc.gov)

[www.dod.gov](http://www.dod.gov)

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

[www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov)

[www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)

[www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)

[www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

[www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)